

to the community. While their name has changed over the years, the organization's impact has never been more important to Chautauqua County.

CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services provides a variety of vital services to the community, including vision screenings for children, vision rehabilitation services, and orientation and mobility services. The organization also engages in advocacy and education services to spread awareness. These services are all built around CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services' mission—"To enable visually impaired people to be active members of their community, and to provide education and services to prevent vision loss."

Without these services, many residents in Chautauqua County would greatly feel the impact. We appreciate the hard work and dedication the staff at CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services put into their work each day and are proud to join in the celebration of this wonderful milestone.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me in recognizing the one hundredth anniversary of the Chautauqua Blind Association, now known as CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS VACANCY REDUCTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Vacancy Reduction Act. This bill would allow local District of Columbia court nominees to be seated after a 30-day congressional review period unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during that period. Currently, nominees cannot be seated without affirmative Senate approval. The congressional review process for nominees would be the same as used for legislation passed by the D.C. Council. It is therefore a reliable process, long-recognized by Congress. My bill is prompted by the unique requirement that judges for the local D.C. courts be confirmed by the Senate, where nominees for the federal courts and executive branch, understandably, get the primary focus and priority. There has been a longstanding vacancy crisis facing the District's local criminal and civil courts, and the local D.C. courts have raised serious concerns about these longstanding vacancies.

Whether Democrats or Republicans control the Senate, the local D.C. courts regularly face vacancy crises, which harm the operations of the local judicial system in the District. Congress created the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) to recommend candidates to the President, and Congress should generally defer to its judgment. This bill is a compromise, useful to all concerned, that retains a congressional role while saving the Senate time by removing the need for committee and floor action on local judges and increasing the odds that D.C. will have a full complement of local judges.

Currently, there are 12 vacancies out of 62 authorized judges on the D.C. Superior Court and three vacancies out of nine authorized judges on the D.C. Court of Appeals.

Both pre- and post-home rule, the District has never had control over the nomination and approval of local D.C. judges. My bill would not alter the role of the JNC or the President in the nomination process. Under the Home Rule Act, the JNC recommends to the President a list of three candidates for each vacancy on the Superior Court and the Court of Appeals. The President must nominate a candidate recommended by the JNC within 60 days to the Senate for advice and consent. If the President fails to nominate such a person within 60 days, the JNC must nominate a recommended person directly to the Senate for advice and consent. The Senate has no obligation to provide its advice and consent. Under this bill, once a nomination has been transmitted to Congress, the nomination would be deemed approved unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during a 30-day review period.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, the humanitarian and national security crisis occurring at our southern border continues to worsen by the day. In June, Border Patrol stopped 188,829 illegal immigrants, which is a 450 percent increase from June of 2020. Earlier this year, I went to the border and saw first-hand how cartels are using innocent children as decoys to bring illegal narcotics into our country.

Because of the policies—or lack thereof—from our current Administration, this crisis is being allowed to grow, cartels are taking advantage of our weak borders, and narcotics are flowing into our country like never before.

In June alone, 1,053 pounds of fentanyl were seized at our southwest border. This is more than the last 3 Junes combined, and is enough to kill 238 million Americans.

And to imagine—this is only the amount of fentanyl that was seized last month—what about deadly drugs that are slipping through the cracks and make their way into the country?

Last week, the CDC reported the national overdose death rates for 2020. Overdose deaths across the country were the highest they have been over the last 50 years. In 2020, in the United States alone, 93,331 people died from a drug overdose. To put this number into perspective, 70,980 people died from a drug overdose in 2019. Nearly 75 percent of fatal overdoses were attributed to opioids, a 5 percent increase from 2019, that was largely driven by fentanyl. In Ohio, opioid overdoses reached record levels rising 16 percent in the second quarter of 2020, which had been declining over 24 months prior to the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, Americans are dying because of the crisis at the border. We must act to stop the illegal flow of narcotics and protect our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OFFICER RYAN BIALKE, RED LAKE NATION POLICE FORCE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Officer Ryan Bialke of the Red Lake Nation police force, who was shot and killed in the line of duty this week. My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Bialke's family, especially his young children, and with Chairman Darrell Seki and all members of Red Lake Nation. Their grief is shared by all Minnesotans during this very difficult time.

Officer Bialke was responding to a call about a mental health emergency when the scene turned violent, and he was struck by gunfire. He was rushed to the Indian Health Service Hospital where he then passed away. This terrible tragedy reminds us that our dedicated law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to serve our communities as they work to keep us safe, and my thoughts are with the rest of the Red Lake Nation police force.

A native of Buffalo, Minnesota, and a six-year veteran of the Red Lake Nation police force, Officer Bialke was described by his loved ones as having a big heart and a love of helping others, a desire to serve which led him to police work. My hope is that his family will find peace and comfort in the many cherished memories they have of him in the weeks and months ahead. I offer my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Officer Ryan Bialke.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT, INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my amendment number 101 included in En Bloc Amendment No. 3 to increase funding for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Facilities and Infrastructure account by \$15 million to match the President's Budget Request of \$167 million.

This funding increase will help the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), located in the 7th District of Colorado, meet critical infrastructure needs. NREL is the nation's only lab with a primary mission dedicated to the research, development, and demonstration of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. For more than 44 years, NREL